

Patent claims

1. A method for providing measured values for end customers, having the following method steps:

5

a measured value for a process variable is recorded using a sensor S1, S2, S3,

10

the measured value is transmitted to a process control system PLS,

15

the number A of transmission operations is counted,

15

the costs for the end customer are calculated on the basis of the number A of transmission operations.

20

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, where the data transmission between sensor S1, S2, S3 and process control system PLS takes place in line-conducted fashion, e.g. using a data bus system DBS.

25

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, where the data transmission between sensor S1, S2, S3 and process control system PLS takes place by radio.

30

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, where the number A of transmission operations is stored in the sensor S1, S2, S3.

35

5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims 1 to 3, where the number A of transmission operations is stored in the process control system PLS.

6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, where the measured values are transmitted

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
APR 26 2001
RECEIVED
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 over the Internet from the sensor S1, S2, S3 to a database at the field transmitter manufacturer's, to which database the end customer likewise has access over the Internet, and the number of database access operations by the end customer to this database is counted.

10 7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims 1-6, where the measured values are transmitted by radio (e.g. GSM) from the sensor S1, S2, S3 to a database at the field transmitter manufacturer's, to which database the end customer likewise has access over the Internet, and the number of database access operations by the end customer to this database is counted.

15

Add A' >